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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1551

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: YO, RO/ XH
SUBJECT: ROMANIAN-YUGOSLAV CONSULTATIONS

REF: BUCHAREST 0971

SUMMARY: DONANC'S LONG WEEKEND STAY IN TIMISOARA AND HIS TALKS WITH CEAUSESCU, ANDREI, ET. AL., APPEAR TO HAVE COMBINED COMPARING NOTES ON THE FORTHCOMING TITO AND CEAUSESCU VISITS TO WASHINGTON, A REVIEW OF ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST (CSCE, MIDDLE EAST, PARTY-TO-PARTY TIES), AND SOME TIME AWAY FROM HIS DESK. BOTH ROMANIANS AND YUGOSLAVS HAVE CHARACTERIZED VISIT AS PART OF REGULAR SERIES OF HIGH LEVEL BILATERAL CONTACTS AND THAT IT INVOLVED NOTHING URGENT. FROM ALL SIGNS WE HAVE, WE TEND TO AGREE. END SUMMARY.

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1. WHILE STANE DOLANC'S FEB 10-13 VISIT TO TIMISOARA WAS NOT ANNOUNCED BEFOREHAND, CZECH COUNSELOR INSISTS ROMANIAN COUNSELOR TOLD HIM OF VISIT WEEK BEFORE IT BEGAN. CZECH ALSO SAID IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT ROMANIANS WISHED TO COMPARE NOTES WITH YUGOSLAVS ON IMMINENT TITO AND CEAUSESCU VISITS TO WASHINGTON.

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2. SEVERAL SOURCES MENTIONED VARIOUS OTHER SUBJECTS DISCUSSED BY DOLANC AND HIS ROMANIAN INTERLOCUTORS. ON MIDDLE EAST, CEAUSESCU GAVE DOLANC A READOUT ON THE SADAT VISIT TO ROMANIA. ON CSCE BOTH SIDES WERE CONCERNED WITH LACK OF MOVEMENT TOWARD CONCLUDING CSCE CONFERENCE WITH A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY DOCUMENT. FSFA NORTH AMERICAN DESK ECON COUNSELOR INSISTED THAT LATEST SOVIET/CPSU MACHINATIONS (IN THIS CASE UNNAMED) ARE ALWAYS SUBJECT OF YUGOSLAV-ROMANIAN BILATERALS ESPECIALLY IN PARTY CONTEXT DISCUSSIONS, AND THAT THIS MEETING WAS PROBABLY NO EXCEPTION. ADDITIONALLY, FSFA EAST EUROPE DIRECTOR TOLD VISITING EUR/EE DIRECTOR ANDREWS THAT EUROCOMMUNISM WAS DISCUSSED, AND, IN ANOTHER CONNECTION, THAT ROMANIANS WERE WARNED ABOUT STALLED EAST-WEST RELATIONS--WHICH AFFECTS THEIR RELATION-SHIP WITH THE SOVIETS.

3. DENYING THAT THE VISIT WAS OUT OF THE ORDINARY, YUGOSLAVS AND ROMANIANS ALIKE HAVE STRESSED THE REGULARITY AND FREQUENCY OF CONTACTS BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS, AND THAT EVEN CEAUSESCU GOING TO DOLANC (INSTEAD OF VICE VERSA) WAS NEITHER UNUSUAL NOR CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT SOMETHING PARTICULARLY URGENT WAS DISCUSSED. ROMANIAN EMBOFF SAID THAT IN VIEW OF CLOSENESS OF RELATIONSHIP, CEAUSESCU WAS PLANNING TO VISIT YUGOSLAVIA THIS YEAR. SAME EMBOFF SAID CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT DOLANC AND PARTY SPEND A GOOD PART OF THE WEEKEND HUNT-ING AND THAT CEAUSESCU ALSO TOOK PART AFTER HIS ARRIVAL.

4. YUGOSLAV MEDIA COVERAGE WAS LIGHT. IT NOTED THAT CEAUSESCU IN HIS RCP CAPACITY HAD INVITED DOLANC, AND FSFA SOURCE HERE ALSO CLAIMED CEAUSESCU WAS ONE WHO PROPOSED MEETING. FEB 11 DAILIES MENTIONED DOLANC'S TROP, AND ON FEB 14 CARRIED THE COMMUNIQUE. APART FROM AN ARTICLE IN THE WEEKLY "KOMUNIST" AND TANJUG'S OVERAGE OF ROMANIAN COMMENTARY ON THE VISIT, NOTHING FURTHER HAS APPEARED.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE ARE NATURALLY SUSPICIOUS OF ROMANIANS, AND CZECHS, IF NOT YUGOSLAVS, WE HAVE NOTHING TO SUSPECT THAT VISIT WAS ANYTHING MORE THAN WHAT WAS DESCRIBED TO US. IT MAKES SOME SENSE THAT CEAUSESCU, WHO WANTED TO BE THE FIRST EE LEADER TO VISIT PRESIDENT, WOULD WANT A PREVIEW OF THE VISIT OF THE MAN WHO PREEMPTED HIM. IT ALSO IS NOT UNLIKELY THAT DOLANC WOULD WANT A WEEKEND OUT OF BELGRADE AND WOULD PREFER MOTORING TO TIMISOARA AND SPENDING IT THERE RATHER THAN FLYING TO BUCHAREST (AND POSSIBLY BEING SET ASIDE THERE DURING SADAT'S VISIT).
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